

REMARKS**Objection to the Specification**

The examiner objected to the specification's use of the number "100" at page 7, line 6, instead of the number "110." The examiner contends that "100" should be replaced by "110" to maintain consistency with the drawings and specs. The number "100", at page 7, line 6, specifies a proposed thickness for the hard mask – i.e., "between about 100 angstroms and about 500 angstroms thick." It does not designate the hard mask – i.e., "hard mask 110", as shown in figures 1a-1c.

Because it is not inconsistent to designate the hard mask as "hard mask 110," while indicating that the hard mask may be "between about 100 angstroms and about 500 angstroms thick" (as page 7, lines 6-7, suggest), applicants respectfully request the examiner to withdraw this objection.

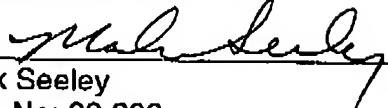
Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

The examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chan et al. The examiner rejected claims 5-7 and 10-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan et al. in view of Samavedam et al., and rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Chan et al. in view of Matsuo. The examiner objected to claims 9, 17 and 19, but indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have canceled claims 1-8, 10-16, and 18, and amended dependent claims 9, 17 and 19 into independent form. As a result, applicants respectfully request the examiner to allow these amended claims to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

(37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a))

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